

April 2, 2002

**BELLSOUTH TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC.'S
PETITION FOR EXPEDITED REVIEW OF CENTRAL
OFFICE CODE DENIALS BY THE NORTH AMERICAN
NUMBERING PLAN ADMINISTRATION RELATING
TO UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE-CHATTANOOGA**

DOCKET NO.
01-00957

**ORDER APPROVING PETITION FOR EXPEDITED REVIEW
OF CENTRAL OFFICE CODE DENIAL AND
REVERSING CENTRAL OFFICE CODE DENIAL**

This matter came before the Tennessee Regulatory Authority (“Authority” or “TRA”) at a regularly scheduled Authority Conference held on November 20, 2001, for consideration of the *Petition for Expedited Review of Central Office Code Denial* filed by BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. (“BellSouth”) on November 1, 2001.

Background

In March of 2000, the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC"), recognizing "the near-crisis" caused by the exhaustion of telephone numbers in certain expanding geographic areas, initiated a policy designed "to slow down the rate at which central office codes (or NXXs) in those areas are assigned to carriers."¹ Among other things, the FCC adopted a mandatory utilization data reporting requirement, a uniform set of categories of numbers for which carriers must report their utilization, and a utilization

¹ *In the Matter of Numbering Resource Optimization*, CC Docket No. 99-200, 2000 WL 339808, 15 FCC Rcd. 7574, ¶¶ 183, 191 (Released March 31, 2000) (*Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making*) (hereinafter *Report and Order*) ¶ 2.

threshold framework to increase carrier accountability and incentives to use numbers efficiently.²

Under this policy, carriers seeking additional numbering resources must apply to the North American Numbering Plan Administration ("NANPA"), which decides whether to allocate the numbers.³ State regulatory commissions may review NANPA decisions affecting numbering allocations in their respective states.⁴

On or about September 18, 2001, BellSouth submitted an application to NANPA to obtain numbering resources sufficient to satisfy a request by its customer the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga ("UTC") for a growth code in the 423 area code. UTC sought to consolidate all its numbers into a single telephone number prefix to eliminate callers' confusion. Because BellSouth did not have sufficient numbers within its inventory to satisfy the request, it applied to NANPA. On October 18, 2001, NANPA denied BellSouth's request on the ground that BellSouth had not met the months-to-exhaust criteria set forth in the Central Office Code Guidelines.⁵

On November 1, 2001 BellSouth filed with the Authority its *Petition for Expedited Review of Central Office Code Denial*. BellSouth asserts that its inability to supply UTC, a large business customer, with the requested numbers within the same NXX code prevents BellSouth from providing the quality of service its customer expects. BellSouth further argues that providing the requested numbering resources would not materially impact the exhaustion of available numbers in the 423 area code. BellSouth

² See *id.*, ¶¶ 40-41, 84, 97-98.

³ See 47 C.F.R. § 52.14(g).

⁴ See 47 C.F.R. § 52.14(g)(iv).

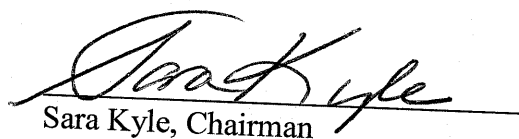
⁵ See *Report and Order*, ¶ 241.

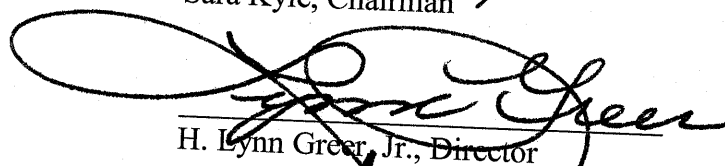
requests that the Authority reverse NANPA's denial of its application and order the release of numbering resources to meet UTC's needs.

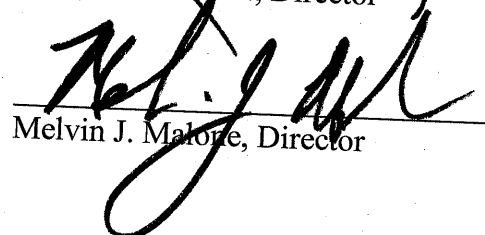
At a regularly scheduled Authority Conference held on November 20, 2001, the Directors considered BellSouth's *Petition for Expedited Review of Central Office Code Denial*. During deliberations, the Directors were assured that although a representative of NANPA was not present during deliberations, NANPA had been notified that this matter was scheduled to be heard at this Authority Conference. Comments from the public and members of the industry were solicited, but none were forthcoming. The Directors then voted unanimously to approve BellSouth's request for expedited review and reversed NANPA's denial of BellSouth's request for additional numbering resources.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

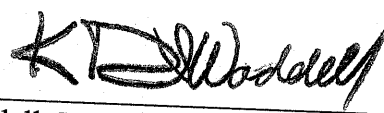
The *Petition for Expedited Review of Central Office Code Denial* filed by BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. is granted.


Sara Kyle, Chairman


H. Lynn Greer, Jr., Director


Melvin J. Malone, Director

ATTEST:


K. David Waddell, Executive Secretary